

VTM Connection

Virginia's Travel Modeling Newsletter

NPTS Add-Ons Planned for Virginia MPO Areas

VDOT is planning to purchase 2008 National Personal Transportation Survey (NPTS) Add-Ons for all MPO areas within Virginia to enhance metropolitan planning efforts. The NPTS has been conducted periodically by US DOT since 1969 and is a valuable source for transportation planning data nationwide. The Add-On program began with the last NPTS in 2001 and provides the opportunity to purchase household travel survey samples as part of the national survey effort. The surveys are scheduled to be conducted in the 2008-2009 timeframe. Virginia's participation in the NPTS Add-On will provide several benefits over the traditional survey approach:

1. Consistent survey results across the state that can be compared to national data
2. High data quality at low risk
3. Web-based retrieval system (for most data) and data on demand
4. No contracting or oversight hassles
5. SP&R and/PL funds can be used

The upcoming NPTS will also provide additional flexibility for Add-Ons over previous NPTS efforts:

1. Allowing participants to add survey content to the core data being collected as part of the national sample
2. Ability to conduct a survey at a time other than when the national survey is conducted

For more information, please see the NPTS website at: <http://nhts.ornl.gov>



Travel Demand Modeling Policies & Procedures Manual Being Developed

VDOT staff is developing a first ever Travel Demand Modeling Policies & Procedures Manual to establish consistent minimum standards and guidelines for travel demand model development and application for MPO areas entirely within Virginia. The draft manual is nearing completion and is being reviewed by VDOT modeling staff in Central Office and Northern Virginia. The manual is expected to be completed by the spring of 2006 and will be used to guide the next round of MPO model validations and updates. Look for updates on the manual in the next edition of VTM Connection.

District Highlights on Current Travel Demand Modeling Activities

No.	VDOT District	District/MPO Area Models	Current Activities
1	Bristol	Bristol & Kingsport	Bristol & Kingsport and each updating their models as part of their Long Range Plan Updates
2	Salem	Blacksburg & Roanoke	Blacksburg and Roanoke models recently upgraded from TP+ to CUBE Catalog format
3	Lynchburg	Danville & Lynchburg	Lynchburg model upgraded from TP+ to CUBE Catalog format Danville model converted from TRANPLAN to TP+
4	Richmond	Richmond-Petersburg	Air Quality Conformity Analysis
5	Hampton Roads	Hampton Roads	Air Quality Conformity Analysis
6	Fredericksburg	Fredericksburg	Model being converted from MINUTP to TP+ Air Quality Conformity Analysis
7	Culpeper	Charlottesville	Model being used for the US 29 Study
8	Staunton	Harrisonburg & Winchester	Harrisonburg model being upgraded from TP+ to CUBE Catalog format
9	Northern Virginia	MWCOG & Northern Virginia	Models being used for the Regional Mobility & Accessibility Study Used models as part of the Highway Ranking prioritization process
10	Central Office	Virginia Statewide Model (VSM)	Used to analyze truck traffic for the I-81 study I-81 study application will be presented at TRB in January, 2006 Pennsylvania DOT is using the VSM as the basis for their statewide model development effort

VDOT Sponsored Citilabs' CUBE/VOYAGER Training

VDOT sponsored Citilabs' CUBE/VOYAGER Software Training in Richmond from August 29th - September 2nd. The week long training was attended by 18 modelers from around the country and was divided into two halves. The first half focused on the CUBE software used as the interface, network editor, and as the linkage to ARC-GIS. The second half focused on the new VOYAGER software, which is the successor to TP+. For the most part, VOYAGER uses the same scripting language as TP+, but it has some new modules and features developed from another Citilabs' software called TRIPS. Citilabs' is the developer of MINUTP, TRANPLAN, and CUBE/TP+, the standard travel demand modeling software used in Virginia.

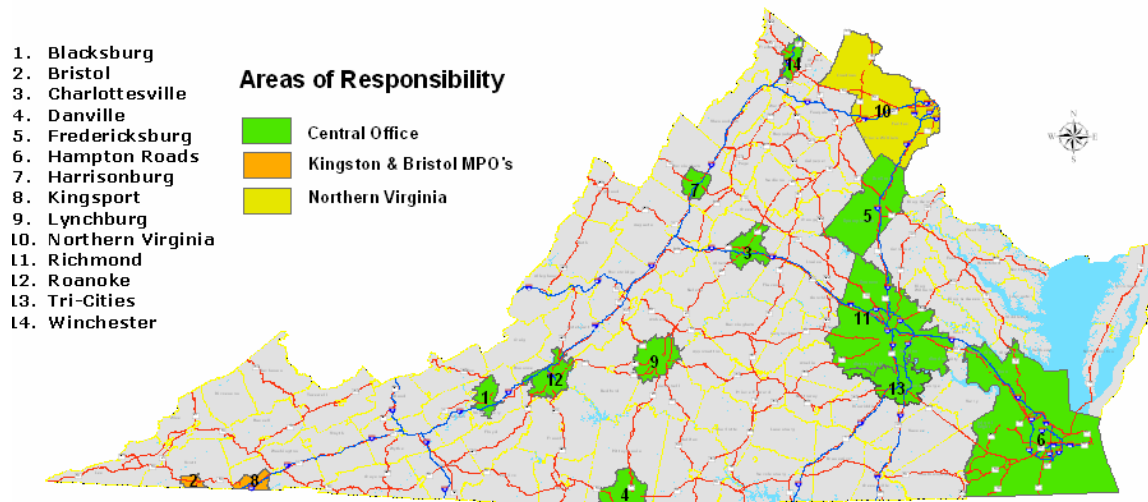


Washington, DC MPO Regional Mobility & Accessibility Study

VDOT Northern Virginia District staff has been working with National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) member agencies and staff to perform a regional mobility & accessibility study for the Washington, DC MPO area using the MPO travel demand model. The purpose of this study is to evaluate alternative options to improve mobility and accessibility between and among regional activity centers and the regional core. This study will include identification of additional highway and transit circumferential facilities and capacity, including Potomac River crossings where necessary and appropriate, that improve mobility and accessibility between and among regional activity centers and the regional core" ([Vision](#) Goal 2, Strategy 5) and that take into consideration the adopted land use plans of individual jurisdictions. The study will also include the development of a regional congestion management program, including coordinated regional bus service, traffic operations improvements, transit, ridesharing, and telecommuting incentives, and pricing strategies.

COG/TPB staff in conjunction with TPB Citizens Advisory Committee is taking this study's results out to the public. The presentation format taken to the public is flexible and depending on the audience, results of different scenarios are presented. So far, four forums have been held at the following locations: 1) Gaithersburg, 2) Fair Lakes, 3) Oxon Hill, and 4) Dulles area. The presentation is focused on local context and describes a few scenarios and then shows local impacts. They will try to answer the big question of What If ... The Washington Region Grew Differently? The key issues related to land use and transportation are: 1) Job growth is outpacing household growth, 2) Workers are living farther away from their jobs, 3) East-West divide, 4) Most growth located outside transit station areas. More forums are planned for Northern Virginia, Silver Spring, and DC.

Travel Demand Modeling Regions



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Key Travel Modeling Websites:

VDOT Travel Modeling (Available for VDOT Intranet Users Only):

<http://insidevdot/Planning/Document%20Library/Transportation%20Modeling%20Website.aspx>

MWCOG Travel Modeling: <http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/activities/models/>

FHWA Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP): <http://tmip.fhwa.dot.gov/>